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Downing-Street, June 21, 1799.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a Copy, has been received from Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Craufurd by the Right Honorable Lord Grenville, His Majeſty's Principal Secretary of State for the Foreign Department.

MY LORD, *Zurich, June* 7, 1799.

I Have the Honor to inform your Lordſhip, that, in conſequence of a very ſevere Action which took Place on the 4th Inſtant, Maſſena has been obliged to abandon his Entrenched Camp before this Place, and that the Auſtrians took Poſſeſſion of the Town Yeſterday Afternoon.

In my Diſpatch of the 31ſt Ultimo, I had the Honor to acquaint your Lordſhip that after the Affair of Winterthur the Enemy retreated behind the Glat. In the ſubſequent Days the Right Wing of the Archduke's Army under General Nauendorf, advanced towards Buelach, the Centre of Prince Reuſs's Column towards Kloten, and General Hotze's to Baſſerſdorf.

In order to threaten the Enemy's Right Flank, and in hopes of thereby inducing him to quit the Poſition of Zurich, (the real Strength of which was not known,) General Zellachich was ſent with a Column round the Greifenſee, and afterwards advanced towards Zurich, in Connection with another Part of General Hotze's Corps, which croſſed the Glat below Greifenſee, but conſiderably to the Enemy's Right. As theſe Demonſtrations, however, were without Effect, an Attack was determined upon.

Between the Glat and Limmat is a conſiderable Chain of Hills, running nearly parallel to theſe Rivers, and covered in moſt Parts with thick Woods. On this Ridge, juſt in the Front of Zurich, Maſſena had choſen a moſt excellent and not very extenſive Poſition, which for ſeveral Weeks paſt he had cauſed to be ſtrengthened by numerous Entrenchments, and in which, after the Affair of Winterthur, he collected a conſiderable Part of the Army. The Right Wing was poſted on the Hill called the Zurich-Berg, which is greatly elevated above every other Part of the Ridge within its Reach, and is covered with very thick Woods, in which the Enemy had made conſiderable Abbatis, entirely ſurrounding the Hill, and defended by Redoubts: and this being the moſt intereſting and deciſive Point of the Poſition, it was occupied by a large Body of Infantry; the Right Flank of which was thrown back en Potence towards the Town. The Left Wing of the Army was placed on the Continuance of the above-mentioned Chain of Hills; likewiſe protected by extenſive Woods, Abbatis, and Entrenchments: the Centre the Ground was much lower, quite free from Wood and of eaſy Acceſs. Through this open Space (which is not quite a Cannon-ſhot in Extent from Wood to Wood), paſs the Roads leading from

Kloten and Winterthur to Zurich. This is the only Part of the Position in which Cavalry could have acted; but it was completely covered by a Chain of Closed Redoubts, considerably retired, and serving as a Curtain to connect the Two Wings, by which it was so flanked and defended as to render the Attack of this Line extremely difficult so long as the Wings of the Army maintained the Heights on each Side of it. The Left Flank was further covered by a Corps posted between Regensberg and the Glat, having its Retreat towards Baden. The only Defect of the Position in Front of Zurich was, that in case of Defeat the Whole would have been obliged to defile through the Town, situated close behind the Right of the Position, and in which there is but One Bridge over the Limmat; for (whether owing to the Rapidity of the River or what other Cause I know not) the Enemy had not, as it was supposed he would have done, constructed any Pontoon Bridges in the Rear of his Centre or Left.

From the above-mentioned Circumstances of the Enemy's Situation, it was evident that, if the Zurich-Berg was forced, it must have brought on the total Defeat of their Army; whose Retreat through the Town, just at the Foot of this Hill, would have been attended with the greatest Difficulty.

Early in the Morning of the 4th Instant the Army marched to attack the Enemy. General Hotze's Corps marched off to the Left, crossed the Glat, formed on the Enemy's Right Flank, and began the Attack of the Zurich-Berg. The Enemy defended this Post with the greatest Obstinacy, and although a considerable Part of Prince Reuss's Column was afterwards sent to assist in the Attack, it was found impossible to force it. The Enemy was driven indeed from some of the Abbatis and Entrenchments, but maintained his principal Position on the Zurich-Berg, till Night put an End to the Action.

During the Night and the whole of the next Day, both Parties remained exactly where they had stood at the End of the Affair, the Austrian Infantry of the Left Wing being in many Places almost within Musket-Shot of the Enemy's Abbatis and Works. The great Fatigue which the Troops had undergone on the 4th, determined the Archduke to defer till the 6th the Renewal of the Attack. But the Enemy, whose Loss in the Affair of the 4th had been very great, and who foresaw the total Ruin of his Army if the Zurich-Berg should be forced, retired in the Night from the 5th to the 6th, leaving in his Entrenchments Thirty-five Pieces of Cannon, Three Howitzers, and a great Number of Ammunition Waggons. In the Afternoon of the 6th, the Austrians occupied the Town.

In the Attack of the 4th Instant the Austrian Infantry suffered a considerable Loss in Killed and Wounded; among the latter were General Wallis, Lieutenant-General Hotze, and Major-General Hiller. General Hotze received a Musket-Shot in the Arm early in the Affair, but it did not hurt the Bone, and fortunately does not prevent his continuing to command his Corps. His Absence at this Moment would have been sensibly felt and sincerely regretted.

Cherin (General of Division and Chief of the Staff), together with Two other French Generals, were severely wounded, and Two Adjutant-Generals are among the Prisoners, of which there are a considerable Number.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBT. CRAUFURD.

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